Institute of Communicable Diseases is providing training to Public Health Engineers and medical professionals to generate awareness about Fluorosis and check the spread of Fluorosis in the country.

Prevention of Dengue Fever

45. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have taken any steps to prevent dengue fever in Delhi, after the report of some cases in the city;

(b) whether Government are aware of serious viral fever spread over villages of Assam, which in some cases is fatal also; and

(c) if so, what help has been given to Assam Health Machinery to cope with it and what is the mode of such help?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) During the year 2003, only one indigenous case and four imported cases of Dengue have been reported in Delhi so far. Regular clinical and vector surveillance alongwith focused awareness campaigns are being carried out in different parts of the city by Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).

(b) As per reports received from the Govt, of Ass"am, there have been 18 cases with 11 deaths due to suspected Japanese Encephalitis upto 16th July, 2003. No case of Dengue has been reported.

(c) For prevention and control of vector borne diseases in the country, National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) is in operation as a Category - II Centrally Sponsored Scheme. However, the State of Assam is provided 100% central assistance under the Programme. Central assistance is provided in the form of material and in cash, which can be utilized for control of these diseases as and when required.

SARS's check at Delhi IGI Airport

46. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Pay Rs. 1000 and escape SARS check at Delhi's IGI" which appeared in the media in April this year; and

(b) the action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The concerned authorities have investigated the matter and reported that no such incident has happened at IGI Airport, Delhi involving staff of Airport Health Organization during SARS screening.

Vasectomy operations

47. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of vasectomy operations undertaken in the country continue to decline every year;

(b) whether it is a fact that apprehensions over post operation effects would disuade men from adopting family planning operations; and

(c) how population is proposed to be checked in the circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The proportion of Vasectomy operations have gone down in last two decades to a low of 1.7% in 1997-98. This however, has increased to 2.4% in 2002-2003.

(b) No, Sir. The National Family Health Survey conducted in 1998-99 show that about two third of current non-users of contraceptives prefer female sterilisation.

(c) The Government of India is implementing various promotional and motivational measures:

An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health and Contraception has been in operation. New measures of contraception-Copper T 380 A and Emergency contraception pills for women have been introduced.

Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2002, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilization, with Community involvement in administering family planning services.